

killing or wounding others as part of combat operations. All of these activities have a demonstrated association with the development of PTSD. Dr. Hoge's study indicated that 94 percent of soldiers in Iraq reported receiving small-arms fire. In addition, 86 percent of soldiers in Iraq reported knowing someone who was seriously injured or killed, 68 percent reported seeing dead or seriously injured Americans, and 51 percent reported handling or uncovering human remains. The majority, 77 percent, of soldiers deployed to Iraq reported shooting or directing fire at the enemy, 48 percent reported being responsible for the death of an enemy combatant, and 28 percent reported being responsible for the death of a noncombatant. Despite the extensive training and resilience that our soldiers are known for they are still human, and these traumatic events will have an impact on their lives.

As my colleague from Arizona, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, mentioned this morning, one in five soldiers is suffering from depression, anxiety or stress. Likewise 20 percent face marital problems including divorce or legal separation from their spouse.

Military families need greater psychological, emotional, and organizational assistance according to the results of a new survey released March 28 of this year by the National Military Families Association, NMFA.

The study, "Cycles of Deployment Report," which focused on the needs of military families, shows service members and military families are experiencing increased levels of anxiety, fatigue, and stress. In response, NMFA outlined recommendations for meeting these challenges amid multiple and extended deployments, increased rates at which service members are called upon for service, and the heavy reliance on National Guard and Reserve forces.

This report clearly shows the range of support programs for families has expanded since the start of the war on terror. However, multiple deployments and a high operations tempo mean different types of support are needed for families' continued success before, during, and after deployment. The survey results provide the Department of Defense a detailed roadmap for making sure families are taken care of during this important time.

Let me share with you some of the key findings from this study about the impact of deployment includes.

Almost half of respondents reported they have used or would use counseling services such as anger management classes and family counseling. Three quarters of those who stated they were better able to deal with subsequent deployments found counseling services to be helpful.

Two-thirds of military families surveyed did not have contact with their unit or unit network volunteer during the critical pre-deployment stage.

Less than one-half reported a consistent level of family support through the pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment phases. Seventeen percent reported no support was available.

Many respondents are concerned that volunteers who help families adjust to life during deployment and what to expect after the reunion are becoming fatigued and subject to "burn-out." They stated that the leaders of unit family groups should be paid or have paid professional support personnel assigned.

Military family members with civilian jobs face pressure to avoid taking time off before, during, or after deployment. Sixty percent of military spouses are employed outside the home and many have either quit their jobs or are considering it.

Military families are worried about how the reunion will go with their deployed family member even as they are worrying about their service member's safety in the field. Unfortunately, many families are not taking advantage of specific return and reunion briefings and activities.

Many respondents expressed that when entering a second or third deployment, they carry unresolved anxieties and expectations from the last deployments. While they may have gained knowledge of resources available to them, respondents whose service member deployed multiple times reported being more fatigued and increasingly concerned about their family relationships.

Although challenged by the demands of deployment, families noted they are proud of their service member and their service to our country. They understand that family support is primarily their personal responsibility, but they expect "The Military" to provide support as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEAL WITH STRESS OF MULTIPLE DEPLOYMENTS

The National Military Families Association has developed a series of recommendations for how the Department of Defense, DOD, can better train and support military staff and civilian volunteers to assist military families. Let me discuss some of them.

Expand program and information outreach. Create formats for families to access support services and maintain touch with their commands and unit family group that live too far from either the unit or from other military families.

Assist families in developing realistic expectations, and then meet them. Educate military families about what to expect before, during, and after deployments.

Direct more resources to support family volunteers. Increase the level of resources and paid professionals, both counselors and administrative, to support the logistics of family support and conducting family readiness activities.

Address return and reunion challenges throughout the deployment cycle. Help with the reintegration of a service member with the family after deployment.

Recognize that family time is important. Encourage service leaders to give family time a higher priority when planning operational activities, especially for service members who have only been back from deployment for a few months.

Continue deployment briefings throughout the year. Never assume families have all the information they need. Ongoing deployment briefings can especially help new spouses or the parents of new recruits. Experienced family members also may find new challenges during a subsequent deployment or find the accumulated stress from multiple deployments creates the need for re-engagement with the family readiness/support group or for accessing different support personnel.

By requiring the Secretary of Defense to conduct this study we are taking a crucial step in ensuring that future troops are adequately taken care of physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Allow me to conclude by stating that I rise in strong support of the underlying legislation H.R. 1585. This legislation addresses several critical issues such as troop readiness, troop safety, troop family needs, and a comprehensive internal review of the Department of Defense.

With regards to troop readiness this bill authorizes \$1 billion for the Strategic Readiness Fund to fix equipment shortfalls, \$1 billion to provide the National Guard and Reserves equipment from their unfunded requirements list, \$250 million to improve training, and the establishment of a Defense Readiness Production Board to mobilize the defense industrial base to speed up the production of military equipment.

With regards to troop safety this bill provides \$1.2 billion for body armor, \$2.5 billion for up-armored humvees, \$1.2 billion for vehicle add-on armor, \$509.7 million for the Armored Security Vehicle, ASV, and requires comprehensive testing of all helmet pad systems.

With regards to meeting the needs of the families of our troops this bill authorizes a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for all service members. This bill restores approximately 490 medical personnel positions and recommends the establishment of a Military Mental Health Initiative that would coordinate all mental health research and development for the Department. Also this bill directs the establishment of a Traumatic Brain Injury Initiative to provide the opportunity for emerging technologies and treatments to compete for funding.

Finally this bill requires a much needed internal review of the Department of Defense. This bill requires a review of the roles and missions of the Department of Defense every 4 years; identifies the core competencies of the military departments, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, each defense agency, and each defense field activity; directs a review of the capabilities that each of the military departments, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, each defense agency, and each defense field activity is maintaining or developing; and requires the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, JROC, to organize its review of requirements according to the core mission areas, provide the military services with clear guidance on the priority assigned to each requirement, and make clear the expected resources allocated to fulfill each requirement.

NOTICE TO ALTER ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to section 3 and 4 of House Resolution 403, and as the designee of the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, I request that during further consideration of H.R. 1585 in the Committee of the Whole, and following consideration of amendment 49, the following amendments be considered in the following order: amendment No. 30; amendment No. 11; amendment No. 31; amendment No. 41; amendment No. 15; amendment No. 42; amendment No. 43; en bloc No. 3.

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).